

**REMARKS**

Claims 11 - 21 stand rejected. Upon entry of the instant amendment claims 11 - 21 are pending. Applicants respectfully believe that the claim 21, as claimed, is fundamentally different from Sasaki and should be allowed.

Sasaki et al. does not disclose or suggest an arrangement of the described contacts in Applicant's connector, as claimed. From the connector of claim 21, with respect to differences of the present invention from Sasaki et al. plural contacts are grouped to make plural contact sets each of which have two signal contacts and one ground contact. At a first end of the connector, these contacts are arranged in two rows as shown in Fig. 1b. At a second end of the connector, these contacts are arranged in three rows as shown in Fig. 4.

In addition, at the second end, the signal contacts of each contact set are positioned on outer ones of the three rows while the ground contact of each contact set is positioned on a middle one of the three rows. In this connection, three contacts are located at three apexes of an isosceles triangle at the second end, respectively.

Additionally, the Examiner's attention is directed to the references cited in an IDS filed herewith. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c) and (e)(1), Applicants certified that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing hereof.

The application and the claims, as amended to recite the structure discussed above, are considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the

Application Serial No. 10/090,956  
Reply to O.A. dated 12/03/04

undersigned attorney. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims  
11-21 and allowance of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

 3-3-04

Perry J. Hoffman  
Registration No. 37,150  
MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLC  
401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1900  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 661-2100; (312) 222-0818 (fax)

Atty. Docket No. 200380-9022

S:\client\200380\9022\C0335800.1